

Brian Allen McPherson

Hello, I am coming to you today as a student, parent, a recent graduate of Manchester Community College with an associate in computer networking, and a Student Advisory Council to the Board of Regents representative. I would like to testify on behalf of Governor Malloy's proposal.

First as a parent. I have a 3 year old daughter set to enter a failing school system. This frightens me. I have entered her into the lottery for charter schools, as I have seen first hand as an intern for Connecticut Regional Education Council, the difference in attitude and resources versus our public school system. I believe the expansion of the charter school system would greatly improve overall education results in CT as well as decreasing our achievement gap, one of the largest deficits in our nation.

As a non traditional student I have seen many injustices among our educational system. College students who do know how to use a simple search engine, ratios of full time and part time teachers that are not on par with institutions outside of the state school system, are a few examples of how we are failing students on all levels.

Because of these examples I have dedicated over 1000 hours volunteering for the gear up program in East Hartford, church based achievement gap forums in Manchester as well as implementing programs to meet the technology requirements of students at MCC. Speaking with many educators across the board the general consensus is lack of funds. While the first year will not address all the issues our education system has, CScu 20/20 is a strong foot forward to making Connecticut a relevant economic force in the future.